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## NEWS.

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DR. HERMAN AMBRONN, of Leipzig, has been called to a professorship in the University of Leipzig.

THE French Academy of Sciences has elected as corresponding members in the section of botany Professors Schwendener and Pfeffer, in place of Baron Müller and Professor Cohn, deceased.

PROFESSOR A. S. HITCHCOCK, of Kansas Agricultural College, has been elected director of the *Académie internationale de géographie botanique* for 1900, succeeding Casimir DeCandolle. A portrait is published in the *Bulletin* for March.

M. ADRIEN FRANCHET died suddenly on February 15 in his sixty-sixth year. He is best known as the author of the *Flore de Loire-et-Cher*, monographs of *Verbascum* and *Strophanthus*, the *Flore du Japon*, the *Plantae Davidanae*, the latter the elaboration of the collections of the abbé David in Mongolia and eastern Thibet, and the *Sertum Somalense*.

AT THE meeting of the Academy of Science of St. Louis on March 19, 1900, Mr. H. von Schrenk exhibited some burls on the white spruce (*Picea Canadensis*). The burls, unlike most of those so far known, are almost round, and are covered with smooth bark. They grow of various sizes, and occur on the trunk and branches of a group of spruces limited to a small area. The wood fibers are arranged in annual rings; they differ from normal wood fibers because of their thinner walls and greater internal diameter, giving the wood a spongy character. Long rows of secondary resin passages occur in each ring. The largest burls, which are from one to three feet in diameter, have rows of long holes within each ring. These holes are diamond-shaped in cross-section, the longer diameter extending radially. Between the holes the wood fibers are compressed tangentially. The speaker explained that the holes must have resulted from an excessive radial pressure exerted from without, probably by the bark. No holes were found where the bark pressure had been released, *i. e.*, where the bark had burst. These results are not in harmony with the findings as to bark pressure reached by Krabbe. The speaker described the manner in which burls are usually formed, and showed the way in which these burls form, by excessive growth, induced by a wound or branch stump.—WILLIAM TRELEASE, *Secretary*.